

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 199324 TOSEC 090054
ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 PRS-01 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 ISO-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:M D ROKEY

APPROVED BY PA/M:C W FREEMAN

S/S-O:LRFLEISCHER

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

PA, S/S, S/PRS

-----004097 221808Z /53

O 221734Z AUG 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 199324 TOSEC 090054

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT EVANS-NOVAK COLUMN APPEARING IN
MONDAY, 22 AUG WASHINGTON POST HEADED "AN IMPENDING ISRAELI
ASSAULT INTO LEBANON?"

2. THE AVOIDANCE OF COLLISION WITH PRESIDENT CARTER OVER
ISRAEL'S LATEST AFFRONT ON NEW WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS MAY
ENCOURAGE PRIME MINISTER MENACHEM BEGIN TO ESCALATE HIS
GAME OF "CHICKEN" WITH A DARING RAID INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON.

3. DIPLOMATIC EXPERTS GIVE ODDS OF JUST UNDER 50-50 FOR A
SWIFT ISRAELI MOVE ACROSS THE BORDER AGAINST PALESTINE
LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) GUERRILLAS, UNDER THE ATTRAC-
TIVE GUISE OF PROTECTING LEBANESE CHRISTIANS. THE RAID
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 199324 TOSEC 090054

PROBABLY WOULD LAST NO LONGER THAN 24 OR 48 HOURS AND
WOULD HAVE TO COME SOON--BEFORE THE PLANNED EVACUATION OF
PLO GUERRILLAS FROM THEIR SOUTHERN LEBANON BASES.

4. THE PURPOSE OF SUCH A RAID: UNDERMINING THE U.S. EF-
FORT TO PERSUADE THE PLO TO ACCEPT ISRAEL AS A PERMANENT
STATE UNDER TERMS OF UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION 242. IF

BEGIN SABOTAGED U.S. POLICY SO FRONTALLY, JIMMY CARTER WOULD FACE HIS TOUGHEST CHOICE BETWEEN SWERVING OR ACCEPTING THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCE OF A PAINFUL HEAD-ON COLLISION WITH ISRAEL.

5. AN ISRAELI ASSAULT ACROSS THE BORDER AGAINST PLO CONCENTRATIONS, INTENDED TO DESTROY AS MANY GUERRILLAS AND INSTALLATIONS AS POSSIBLE ALSO WOULD SERVE SOME LESS OBVIOUS PURPOSES FOR BEGIN. IT WOULD HEIGHTEN PLO HATRED OF ISRAEL AND WEAKEN THE PLO'S MODERATES, INCLUDING YASSAR ARAFAT, WHO ARE BELIEVED READY TO GO ALONG WITH THE U.S. PLAN.

6. AN INCURSION OF THE TYPE SUCCESSFULLY EMPLOYED ON EARLIER OCCASIONS AGAINST THE PLO IN BOTH LEBANON AND JORDAN WOULD FOLLOW THREE SUCCESSIVE ISRAELI AFFRONTS TO THE CARTER PEACE PLAN:

7. FIRST, BEGIN'S "LEGALIZATION" OF THREE JEWISH SETTLEMENTS ON THE PALESTINIAN WEST BANK; SECOND, A MAJOR TIGHTENING OF ISRAEL'S OCCUPATION POLICIES OVER ONE MILLION ARABS IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA, NOW UNDER ISRAELI MILITARY CONTROL; THIRD, THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL LAST WEEK OF THREE NEW JEWISH SETTLEMENTS.

8. BESIDES HARDENING PLO RESISTANCE TO ISRAEL AS A STATE, EACH OF THOSE STEPS WAS CALCULATED TO SEND CARTER THIS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 199324 TOSEC 090054

WARNING: DO NOT KEEP TRYING TO BRING THE PLO INTO THE CENTER OF PEACE EFFORTS.

9. DIPLOMATS HERE WITH ACCESS TO ISRAELI THINKING SAY NOTHING HAS SO INFURIATED BEGIN AS THE "UNFRIENDLY" MOVES OF CARTER IN TRYING TO GIVE INTERNATIONAL CREDIBILITY AND RESPECTABILITY TO THE PLO. THUS, EACH TIME THE UNITED STATES STEPS UP ITS EFFORTS TO CONVERT THE PLO FROM OUTSIDER TO INSIDER--AS A TRUSTED PARTY TO MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS--BEGIN COUNTERS WITH A NEW MOVE AGAINST THE CARTER PEACE PLAN.

10. THIS GAME OF CHICKEN APPEARS TO BE WORKING TO ISRAEL'S ADVANTAGE. EVERY TIME HE SWERVES TO AVOID THE COLLISION, CARTER LOOKS WEAK AND VACILLATING. ON JULY 28, THE PRESIDENT SAID HE TOLD BEGIN "VERY STRONGLY" OF HIS DEEP CONCERN THAT NO NEW SETTLEMENTS BE ESTABLISHED. YET, THE ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE TO THE THREE NEW SETTLEMENTS WAS COUCHED IN FLABBY DIPLOMATIC LANGUAGE AND WAS DELIVERED NOT BY THE WHITE HOUSE BUT BY STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER JR. (SIC).

11. GIVEN THE LACK OF U.S. COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST BEGIN'S BOLD REBUFFS OF CARTER, BEGIN MIGHT WELL BE TEMPTED TO CROSS THE LEBANESE BORDER. THE POORLY ORGANIZED PLO IRREGULARS, NUMBERING BETWEEN 3,000 AND 5,000 AND SCATTERED OVER THE 20 MILES OR SO BETWEEN THE BORDER AND THE LITANI RIVER, WOULD HAVE NO CHANCE AGAINST OVERWHELMING ISRAELI MILITARY FORCE.

12. THE PRESENCE OF THE PLO FORCE AS A MAGNET FOR ISRAELI INTERVENTION FRIGHTENS BOTH LEBANON AND SYRIA. THOSE TWO COUNTRIES, ALONG WITH EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA, ARE SEEKING TO TRANSFER THE PLO GUERRILLAS NORTHWARD, FAR OUT OF SOUTHERN LEBANON--THEREBY REMOVING THE MAGNET.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 199324 TOSEC 090054

13. DESPITE REPEATED PLO PLEDGES AND MONTHS OF WORK, THE PLO IRREGULARS HAVE NOT YET BEEN SEPARATED FROM THE CHRISTIAN VILLAGES THAT DOMINATE SOUTHERN LEBANON. ONE REASON: AIDED BY ISRAELI ARTILLERY AND SUPPLIED WITH ISRAELI RIFLES AND SUPPLIES, THE CHRISTIANS HAVE BEEN NO MORE WILLING TO BREAK OFF THE WAR THAN THE PLO.

14. NEVERTHELESS, THE PLO FORCE WILL FINALLY BE REMOVED, PERHAPS WITHIN TWO MONTHS, MAKING ISRAELI INTERVENTION ACROSS THE BORDER MORE DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY POLITICALLY. BUT TODAY, CONDITIONS ARE IDEAL FOR ISRAEL: A SUDDEN SWEEP INTO PLO AREAS TO PROTECT THE CHRISTIANS, A QUICK RETURN TO ISRAEL, A DRAMATIC DISPLAY TO THE WORLD PRESS OF GRATEFUL LEBANESE VILLAGERS GIVING FLOWERS TO ISRAELI SOLDIERS.

15. IMPOSSIBLE? FAR FROM IT, IN THE OPINION OF THIS GOVERNMENT'S CLOSEST STUDENTS OF BEGIN AND HIS BOLD, ACTIVIST, MASTERFUL POLICIES. TO MENACHEM BEGIN, A GENUINE U.S.-PLO RAPPROCHEMENT HOLDS DEADLY PERIL FOR ISRAEL. THE MAJOR QUESTION TODAY IS HOW FAR HE WILL GO IN RISKING COLLISION WITH WASHINGTON TO GUARD AGAINST THAT PERIL. CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, INTERVENTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE199324
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: M D ROKEY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770302-1191
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770836/aaaabens.tel
Line Count: 157
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 72166956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1525468
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: OVIP, SOPN, US, IS, LE, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/72166956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009